## Amusements and Meetings Co-Night.

RROADWAY THEATRE—" Monte Christo."
FIFTH AVENUE HALL—2 and 8: Heller's Wonders.
FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE—" Adrienne." Mme. Modjeska.
NIBLO'S GARDEN—2 and: "Duke's Motto."
PARE THEATRE—" David Garrick," etc.
SAN FRANCISCO MINSTIRLS.
UNION SQUARE THEATRE—" The Mān of Success."
WALLACK'S THEATRE—" Won at Last."

NEW AMERICAN MUSEUM-Day and Evening. NEW-YORK AQUARIUM-Day and Evening.

Index to Advertisements. ANUSEMENIS-3d Page-6th column.
BOARD AND ROOMS-7th Page-6th column.
BUSINESS CHANCES 7th Page-5th column.
BUSINESS NOTICES-4th Page-1st column.
COPARTNERSHIP NOTICES-3d Page-6th column.
COUNTRY BOARD-7th Page-6th column.
DANCING ACADEMIES-6th Page-4th column.
DENTISTEY-5th Page-5th column.
DENTISTEY-5th Page-6th column.
DENTISTEY-5th Page-6th column.
ETROPENA DEVERTISEMENTS-7th Page-6th column.
FINANCIAL-7th Fage-3th and 4th columns.
FINANCIAL-7th Fage-3th column.

EUROFEAN ADVERTISEMENTS—7th Page—6th column.
FIXANCIAL—7th Page—3d and 4th columns.
FURNITIES—7th Page—6th column.
BELP WANTED—3d Page—5th column.
HOERS AND FARMS WANTED—7th Page—6th column.
ICE CREAM—7th Page—5th column.
INSTRICTION—6th Page—3d and 4th columns.
INSTRICTION—6th Page—3d and 4th columns.
LECTURES AND MEETINGS—3d Page—5th column.
MARRIAGES AND DEATH MANTELS—7th Page—5th column.
MARRIAGES AND DEATH MANTELS—7th Page—6th column.
MISCELLANEOUS—7th Page—5th column: 8th Page—5th

MISCELLANGOUS—7th Page—6th column; Sin Page—5th and 6th columns.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS—3d Page—6th column.

NEW PUBLICATIONS—6th Page—3t column.

PROPOSALS—6th Page—5th column:

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE—CITY—7th Page—6th column;

COENTRY—7th Page—6th column; TO EXCHANGE—7th Page—6th column.

SATINGS BANKS—7th Page—4th column.

SATINGS BANKS—7th Page—6th column.

SITUATIONS WASTED—MALES—3d Page—5th column;

FEMALES—3d Page—5th column.

SIXAMEDATS AND RAILHOADS—6th Page—5th and 6th column.

columns.

STEAMERS, OCEAN-6th Page-5th column.

STEAMERS-6th Page-4th and 5th columns.

To Lett-City Property-7th Page-6th column; Country-7th Page-6th column.

WINIER Res RES-7 k Page-6th column.

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# New-Dork Daily Tribune.

FOUNDED BY HORACE GREELEY.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2, 1878.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

Foreign,-A battle is deemed imminent in Armenia. - The Russians have ordered locomotives and bridges in France. \_\_\_\_ The Turks claim that Fuad Pasha's position at Ikhtiman is impregnable, - The Czar has ordered the Russian com manders to receive proposals for a truce.

CITY AND SUBURBAN.—It is now shown that John

Bonner's operations involved \$1,000,000. social enjoyment of New-Year's Day was unusually conspicuous in New-York and neighboring cities Additional human remains were found in the

DOMESTIC .- The New-York Legislature met and organized; General Husted was chosen Speaker of Assembly, and Mr. Vrooman Clerk of the Senate: the Governor's Message was received and read; Mr. Sessions introduced a bill repealing the Specie Resumption Act; the Governor pominated ex-Attorney-General Fairchild Superintendent of Public Works, and Dr. Austin Flint, jr., for Health Officer of the Port of New-York, —— The New Year's rethe most brilliant for many years. - The Washangton Police force has been so crippled by Con gressional economy that citizens are alarmed There is strong opposition to the reelection of Senator Dennis from Baltimore.

THE WEATHER.-TRIBUNE local observations indisate a gradual increase of partial cloudiness and warmth. Temperature yesterday, 21°, 33°, 30°,

Even in the New-York Senate the silver repudiator promptly shows his head. At the first available moment, Mr. Sessions pops up with a bill to repeal the pledge of the State to re sume specie payments in 1879. We shall look to the Republican Senate to suppress this Republican Senator.

Governor Robinson's nomination for Health Officer of this port in place of Dr. Vanderpoel, who has resigned, is one that it is easy to commend. Dr. Vanderpoel's retirement is to be regretted, as he was an excellent officer, but his place would be most acceptably filled by Dr. Austin Flint, jr., who is a man of the highest professional and personal standing.

This city can have the finest water-front for commercial purposes in the world. Its shabby docks have, however, till within a few years, given a contrary notion. Since the Dock-Commissioners took hold of the matter, there has been a gradual improvement. Our docks are not yet things of beauty, but they are not the rotten old hulks of former days. When the system of the Dock Department is fully carried out, the accommodations will exceed the needs of our present commerce; but perhaps by that time there may be a revival in shipping interests which will absorb all the promised facili-

Many earnest men who prefer to manage refigious matters in a different way had grave doubts whether any permanent good would result from the work of Messrs. Moody and Sankey, in this city It is satisfactor yto learn from two of the leading ministers who cooperated in the work that its good effects are still plainly perceptible, and appear to be gradnally extending. The awakening influence of the revival preaching was felt inside as well as outside of the pale of church-membership. A fraternizing beween different denominations also resulted, of which the pleasant consequences are yet traceable.

intendent of Public Works was not unex-

not an engineer, and therefore lacks the professional skill which would seem to be highly desirable in such a position. It will be urged, on the other hand, that his appointment would be a most significant notice to the old Ring whom Mr. Fairchild has been fighting, that, in the new administration of the public works, no canal thieves need apply. It must be admitted that there is strength in the argument. The decision against Denison and Belden, and the probably put an end to all caviling as to his sincerity in the conduct of his office, and his thorough identification with the work of reforming the canals may carry his name through the Senate, in spite of the Tammany Senators. Should Mr. Fairchild be confirmed, the State will at least be sure of an honest administra-

The announcement that Fuad Pasha has been reinforced at the Ichtiman defile, and that it is now deemed impregnable, belongs to that class of war news which the Porte circulates as a set-off to serious reverses. The movements of the Servians and of General Ghourko's forces having rendered Sophia untenable, the Porte seeks to convince the people that by retiring on Ikhtiman, thirty miles from Sophia, the Ottoman commander will be able to arrest the advance of the Russians on Adrianople. No doubt, in good hands, the Balkan Pass, at Ikhtiman might be held by a small army against a stronger force, but the Russians have it in their power, by a descent from the Shipka and other central passes, to attack the rear of the defending army, and compel it to retreat to the confines of Adrianople If an invading army could cross the Hudson at Poughkeepsie, it would be obviously absurd to retain an opposing force at Peckskill to prevent that movement. It is so with the Ottoman army in Western Bulgaria. With it communications menaced at several points, the remnants of the great force raised to resist the Russian invasion is simply retreating with as good order as it can command toward Adrianople. \_

THE GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

The State of New-York is not far from that happy stage in which a people is said to have no history. The administration of Governor Robinson's predocessor covered a time of turmoil and agitation in the State The last great organization of publie plunderers was struggling for its life, and the occupant of the Executive chair, while carrying on a contest with it, was rising into greater prominence every day as the coming man of destiny in the Democratic party. Governor Tilden's messages were addressed to the Nation rather than to the State, and were read with eager interest in every quarter of the Union. But times have changed. When Governor Tilden retired from office he drew National politics and Presidential issues away with him, and Albany, which had been a great centre of action and discussion, sank back to the sober level of an ordinary State Administration. Governor Robinson is a plain man, and no politician. if we may judge his ability on that score by his failure even to influence, though not for want of effort, a recent Democratic Convention held under his very nose. If he has political ambitions, he has not published desire to administer the Government faithfully and well, leaving the future to take care of itself. Meanwhile the State is on the sure road to a prosperity that shall be free from debt, and may even look forward to the happy time when the Legislature shall have little to do, and the departments shall be more honest and even more drowsy than ever. The last of the Rings has been swept out of existence, and must, unless its lack improves, disgorge its plunder. The prisons are already transformed by a single hand, and will soon be on a paying basis, while the tell? Only the lenders well know the fact that sion, a similar head for the canals. The State is almost out of debt, its taxes are growing lighter every year, and every year its different departments are coming nearer to a business basis.

Still the Governor finds many subjects to makes many recommendations. He finds that while the season on the canals has been the most prosperous for the boatmen in a long time, it has also been the most advantageous, in many respects, for the State. The expenditures have not been so low in it makes honest loans full of danger, and honmany years, and yet in many years the canala have not been in such perfect condition, and he hazards the prediction that, under a Superintendent of Public Works, the expenses can be reduced to one-half of the low figure of the past year. But," perhaps, the part of the Message of most interest to New-Yorkers is funds within speedy reach, they are that in which the Governor discusses the wretched plight of the City of New-York, with \$85,000,000 of debt piled upon it by legislative acts for which we did not ask, and 2,400 laws enacted for it, which even the highest courts sometimes cannot reconcile or understand. The Governor carefully refrains from committing himself to the proposed Constitutional Amendments, but he urges the special attention of the Legislature to this most important topic, suggesting that, if the Amendments be not adopted, a permanent charter, in the form of a constitution, should be enacted for the city, conferring upon it the right to govern itself. Governor Robinson has spoken a much-needed word in favor of a right which tit has been found safe to deny to a city that is greater than many States, though never to a State-itself. It is to be feared, however, that the Legislature is too fond of acting as "a Board of Aldermen and Assistant Aldermen for the City of New-"York," as the Message puts it, to relinquish the privilege voluntarily; or, in other words, that the politicians find the present system the easiest way of making New-York City pay the cost of running the

two party machines of the State. will attract general attention. He discountenances, most emphatically, the present system of higher education as afforded by the common schools, and insists that when the State has given a goodly share of rainfall, while here the its million scholars an education in the ordinary English branches, it has done all that can be asked of it.

The Message discusses other subjects of State and local interest. It rehearses the labor troubles and strikes of last year, and pays a high compliment to the efficiency of the militia. The nomination of ex-Attorney-General It renews a former protest against the comple-Fairchild for the important office of Super- tion of that unsightly edifice, the New Capitol, which has already cost more than the Erie and pected, as it has been an open secret for Champlain Canals together did, and yet has some time past that Governor Robinson had not a single apartment finished for occupancy. determined upon this step. It will naturally It makes a distinct recommendation for a new

scolding its predecessors should have had for neglecting to reapportion the State. It is pointedly adverse to the new Code of Procedure. It wisely recommends legislators to leave the grievances of villages to redress themselves, and so as to prevent the enactment of as many laws this year conflicting with the Constitution as were passed last year, gravely quotes from the Amendments of 1874 the provisions stating what kinds of bills the Legislature shall not pass. If it were not promptness with which he followed it, up have that the honorable members were so sadly in need of the reminder, this might be considered the first joke ever perpetrated in a Governor's Message In his brief references to National affairs, Governor Robinson speaks a good word for a return to specie payments and the preservation of the National honor, as he has already done for resumption by the State and the fulfilment of its legislative promise.

The Message is, in the main, sound. Some of its opinions may be old-fashioned, but it is a straightforward document, and is animated | years. by a commendable public spirit.

THE MORAL OF FAILURES. For some time it has been shown that mere failures do not seriously disturb business. Neither have ordinary robberies shaken confidence. Yet the recent developments in Wall Street shake everything. What do they mean? Wherein do they differ from many failures that have preceded, and many forms of robbery the memory of which is yet fresh? It is said that they shake confidence. But why should there exist any confidence to be shaken? Do not Wall Street and Congress combined make any intelligent confidence impossible ! Consider first the Street. What is the essence

of its business? The greater part of it is gambling. Its larger operators are mere gamblers. Its methods are those which the most reckless of ordinary gamblers would consider extra-hazardous. Yet these Wall Street gamblers are backed by many of the Wali Street lenders. They are backed and practically carried, day after day, week after week, by men who know that they are mere gamblers, and yet loan them trust funds. Nor do these gamblers play against each other what can be called "a square game." What the "brace box" and the "marked cards" and the "loaded dice" are in ordinary games of chance, the methods of Wall Street are in speculation. There is scarcely a pretence that reports of corporations do not cheat, and no pretence at all that managers of corporations do not single such reports to suit their private speculations rather than the interests of stockholders. Of course there are exceptions, but how many? Does not the public know that mere inquiry as to essential facts which have been concealed in official reports is treated as impertment? Have we not seen the players with loaded dice threaten with indictment anybody who should dare to inspect the dice too closely?

This is the prevailing characteristic of Wall Street. It deals chiefly in stocks and securities of corporations whose earnings are habitually concealed or fraudulently misstated, and whose expenses are hidden behind all the juggleries of the most cunning accountants. Wall Street prefers to bet on such stocks, and that because it knows that the methods adopted by these companies are not such as an honest management would prethem, and the people give him credit for a fer,-solicious only for the welfare and arotection of boya fide stockholders. The calls upon the public to buy these stocks of all others. To the men who gamble most whose sworn statements are habitually questioned, Wall Street lends money by the millions, and from funds placed with it on trust. Everybody knows that a large proportion of the awern statements made, both by companies in which speculation is most active and by institutions which lend their funds upon the securities of such companies, are perjured statements. How many? Who can

Is it to be expected that hard-pushed speculators will be more honest than the Street? If it is wrong to perjure, is it right to lend trust funds to perjurers? If it is right to risk the discuss in his second annual Message, and hypotherate the securities of others in order outline that was unknown to them in life. to carry on the game?

Then as to Congress. That body cheats, and forces others to cheat. It is engaged this senson in wholesale robbery. It causes fraud, by making the measure of values unstable. Thus est investments of trust funds well-nigh impossible. How can anybody honestly loan the money of another, not knowing whether it will be paid in silver or gold? Out of this come short loans, call loans, and all devices by which, in order to keep placed at the use of gamblers. And because Congress makes gambling apparently as honest as legislation, more safe than investments in aid of legitimate business, it comes to pass that such business languishes, that loans for such busines shrink, that stockholders grow hungry for interest on their funds, regardless of methods or risks. The morals of the pickpocket are found in the most sacred places of financial trust. Why not? What else can be expected? If some men are strong enough to resist so great temptation, what wonder if many are not?

The banks have in their hands tire remedy. If they do not want to be robbed, and to see legitimate business choked, they will stop these operations. How?

They will stop lending or dealing in a currency which knaves at Washington can make good or bad at pleasure.

They will adopt measures to prevent, as far as possible, the lending of money in aid of gambling operations.

A DANGER OF DROUGHT. The deficiency of rainfall last month was

so singular that it must have attracted the notice of most of our citizens. It appeared One recommendation the Governor makes | yet more remarkable to persons who took some note of the general weather of the country. not far distant from this city, to the threatening. On one side or other, many of the storms that moved toward us from the south or west, parted or diverged, so that New-York City escaped their visit. Sometimes we had the winds, sometimes the clouds, sometimes the low barometric record of these storms, but only twice, in the whole month, the rain. The first of the two instances of rain was the

ing us with rain or snow. It gave us about four-fifths - of an inch of rainfall, which, though not very heavy, is near the average of such visitations. But all the rest of the month did not supply the other fifth. The second storm, on last Sunday, brought less than the eighth part of an inch of rain, while nothing worth naming had fallen in the long interval preceding.

It is noticeable that not only is there a failure of approaching rain-storms to reach this locality, but there is also a failure on the part of the few that do reach us, to give as much rainfall as they afford elsewhere. All signs do, indeed, fail with us in a drought. There has not been a December in twenty-four years with so small a rainfall; possibly no one in a much longer period if the records could be strictly compared. During the Summer and Fall the deficiency of rain had occasioned anxiety; the Winter, in this respect, begins badly, with scarcely a fourth of the average yield, taking an estimate from the past forty

From the comparisons made by Dr. Daniel Draper, of the Central Park Meteorological Observatory, it appears highly probable that there are cycles of abundance and deficiency in our rainfall, which cover periods of several years; and that we are now at or near the lowest point of one of the cycles of deficiency. The ascent from this lowest point to a period of full or excessive supply, judging from the past, will be a slow process; it seems likely to require least three or four years, and possibly more. Weather science is as yet too incompicte to trace the causes of these cycles. If the deficiency of rain here is caused by the rain-bearing clouds avoiding us, a series of careful studies, such as Professer Loomis makes, may show whether the general direction of movement of such storms has changed within recent years. On the other hand it is possible that there is no change in the march of these storms, but merely that they fail to give rain when passing over this region. In either case, a further explanation will be required; it is especially desirable to ascertain whether the destruction of forests, or other agricultural operations, can have had anything to do with the change. It would also be interesting to trace the relation, if there is any, between our droughts and the sunspot period.

But whatever may be the explanation, the facts are of serious importance. It is evident that the water-supply of this city is liable to be diminished by seasons of exceptionally dry weather, extending, with few interruptions, through periods of at least three or four, and possibly of eight or ten years. No system of storage reservoirs is likely to meet a deficiency that is so prolonged. The supply must be drawn from sources less liable to drought, "Perhaps the needed permanent supply may be found in rivers that have their rise in regions more distant from the city than the Croton water-shed. Plans for supply from ponds lakes and streams that are comparatively near the city, must be looked upon merely as make shifts, meant only to serve a temporary purpose, and on which it is not worth while to spend a great deal of the public money.

ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS.

There is talk of organizing a scheme for voological gardens in Central Park. This is one of those things that should be very well done, if done at all. Many will think it should not be tried in the Park under any circum stances. There is a deep-rooted feeling that this Park should be kept free from any exhibition or entertainment whatever, for which an admission fee must be charged-that it should remain throughout its whole extent and in every department free to all the people.

But if, under any circumstances, we are to have, either in Central Park or elsewhere, a zoological garden, we ought to have something better worthy of the name than anything ye attempted. What was done at the Arsenal. Governor has nominated, on the first day of of perjure, reports there are very many. But even in its best days, was shabby. The public has shrewdly suspected that the poor beasts on exhibition there were not fairly treated. There was certainly too high a rate of mortality among them. Their stuffed skins, as they now adorn the cases of the Museum money of others in gambling, is it wrong to of Natural History, present a fulness of There are too many of the old favorites in the cases on the other side of Eighth-ave. too few remaining in the cages of the Park. It needed only a glance to see that the animals, when alive, were uncomfortable, and usually the imperfect arrangements for cleanliness and ventilation addressed themselves to noses as well as eyes. But ours is an easily-pleased public, and the throng of visitors was constant. The records show that the average number of visitors surpassed the attendance at any smailar exhibition elsewhere. The Museum of Natural History has claimed the credit of this large attendance, but the live specimens, such as they were, doubtless offered the chief attraction.

The simple fact that a collection of animals presenting no features of scientific interest or value-such as ordinarily serves for a menageric-will draw abundant crowds, may possibly stand in the way of a better exhibition. A very small proportion of the public has bad the opportunity to learn what such a display ought to be, if worthy of the city. Popular ideas are formed from such shows as have been presented in ordinary menageries. Some of our citizens, however, while visiting the Centennial Exhibition, turned aside for an hour or two to see the animals in the zoological gardens in Fairmount Park. Sleek, hearty, well-fed creatures were those, looking as it they enjoyed life and were not tormented by captivity. That is not a large exhibition, but it is as neat as the marble fronts of the Quaker City. The published tables of mortality for that collection show that the animals are well kept, the deaths being comparatively few; and it is needless to say that the good management has proved economical.

gardens at Central Park should be of the first class. While it would be better to Day after day it happened that regions have a few animals well kept than a large collection badly provided for, north, west, or south of us, received neither of these alternatives will meet the want. To give some notion of what is expected in a first-class exhibition, it may be mentioned that the Zoölogical Society's Gardens in London receive constantly such numbers of valuable animal, that the record of additions makes a long paragraph every week in the chief scientific journal of follo, it! England. The number of new animals received in a week of last month was fortyfive, and that number was not unusuoccasion of much congratulation. It came in ally large. A great majority of the animals the first week of December, after a long there are gifts, many are purchases, and a few period of drought. It was supposed to be the are born in the gardens. To acquire much forerunner of a series of storms of its kind, that is of value from gifts, a zoological collec-

To be worthy of our city, the zoological

vor with the public. It may well be doubted whether any such result would follow under the present scheme, which contemplates charging an admission fee. To make the collection of real value, its scientific features should be carefully considered; if it is to be of use in educating the public, very full details as to the name and characteristics of each animal should be placed so that the description can be read at a glance. Without clear labels, collections of natural history objects are of little service. Much will depend upon the intelligence and care that is expended in keeping such an exhibition in good order. It may prove more difficult to secure a good superintendent than to obtain the animals or the funds for their support. We have in this country a large number of costly telescopes and large observatories, but the astronomers who can utilize those facilities are few. Let us see to it that no similar blunder is made in our provisions for zoölogical collections on a large scale.

LYNCHING IN THE CAPITAL.

The Nation has escaped what would have been properly felt as a National shame. The worst of outrages having been inflicted upon a respectable young woman, and a pair of black persons arrested upon suspicion that they were the assailants, the crowd in its rage desired incontinently to hang the prisoners without judge, jury or warrant. The police, by no means certain that they had captured the proper parties, remonstrated to good purpose with the volunteer avengers, who agreed to suspend their extra-judicial and extra-injudicious proceedings. The affair also an "indignation meeting" of "respec-'table and influential citizens" at the Eighth Street Presbyterian Meeting House. Major Myers, who presided, hearing some one call out, "Where is Judge Lynch?" answered that if the guilty parties were found, "Judge Lynch would do his work with-"out any prompting." A chairman should also be a moderator, but there was nothing moderating about this. If there is any place where the laws should be respected, it is where they are enacted. Lynching on the frontiers and in newly settled territory has been more frequent than a people anxious for the good reputation of the country could comfortably consider; but lynching in Washington, the seat of the Government, and under the very noses of Senators and Representatives, would be a shameful scandal. Mortifying things enough have already happened in Washington-shootings, assaults and batteries under the great dome itself; and justice has not always been promptly and sufficiently meted out to lawbreakers; but a real, regular and methodical lynching on one of the trees of Pennsylvania-ave:, especially if the wrong man happened to be hanged, would ereate not a kind, even in foreign lands.

Second thoughts are the best, and the meeting above mentioned did well not to put its unlawful inpulses into the shape of a resolution or a rope, but to content itself with mildly demanding a new station house, and an increase of the police force. The Chiefof-Police has consulted with the Secretary of the Interior, who has come to the conclusion that about 400 able-bodied constables will not be too many if it be true that crime is unusually prevalent in the citywe mean crime of the kind usually investigated in the Police Court. A vigitance committee has also been appointed, numbering 100 members-all "property owners and good responsi-"ble men." This is much better than lynching, and will accomplish the desired purpos quite as effectually. With a pretty large share of the dangerous and disturbing elements of population, Washington has a municipal government not over efficient, except in the article of spending money. If the rage for appropriations can be directed in the way of measures for the preservation of good order

there, nobedy will grudge any reasonable cost. Whenever it has been proposed to establish the seat of Government in some one of our populous cities, the cry of danger from popufar violence to the congregated wisdom has been raised. In the same spirit, some may now ask whether Washington is not itself somewhat too big for its business. Especially if the galleries should grow more riotous, or the sacred person of some honorable member should be outraged by a mob, or the deliberations of the House be manifestly affected by pressure from the outside. Washington might easily be made the best governed city in the land, and for the credit of the illustrious name which it bears, it should be such. As the largest property owner there, the United States should do its share toward making the capital law-abiding; if others interested will not cooperate, they must take the consequences.

The year of grace 1878 comes to us with a sunny

face, a vigorous breath, and attendant omens of cheer and courage. Although its predecessor swept away from the world with its closing hours stained with a new evidence of vulgar fraud burrowing beneath a showy and pretentions career, the sun of yesterday rose as brilliantly as if there were nothing but triumphant virtue in the world. The air was chill, but inspiring; and in a few hours the sun mellowed it into a temperature which was simply perfect-bracing without biting, bringing out the colors and forms of architecture, withou cutting them too harshly and sharply against the air. The turf in Central Park and the squares is still freshly green; and, since the darkest days of the season already he behind us, one might easily imagme that the lingering life of Nature belongs to the renewal of early Spring. The whole city seemed to be occupied, during the day, in visiting and receiving visits; the streets were crowded with carriages, and the sidewalks with festive gentle men, who showed in their elastic gart and cheery faces how much the duty of the day was relieved by its brightness. Even many of those who had sent cards, to prevent the conventional task from becoming too severe, if not impossible, were tempted to turn it into a pleasure. A marked feature of the day was the absence of showy entertainments; in most cases some simple refreshment was offered, but not pressed upon the guests; and there was much less wine provided than on any previous New Year's. So far as could be observed, the same sensible change extended to all classes of society. The city was not only better behaved, but more heartily, if quietly, cheerful than ever before. 1877 came in with an overcast sky, raw air, and slippery streets, and the evening of its first day closed with a dreary snow-storm. Let us hope that the sunny promise and the healthy vigor which mark the coming of 1878 may be the tokens of reviving honesty, and the prosperity which will Secretary Evarts continues to predict harmony

between the Republican party and the Administration. He says the differences within the party have been materially reduced, and the restoration of harmony is not far off. This is a comforting assurance that the Democratic hopes of seeing the Civil Service Reform machine started wrong end first once be objected that Mr. Fairchild is a lawyer, and Excise law, and gives the Legislature the such as are customary in our Winters, supply- tion at Central Park must be in high fa- more will be blighted, and that a hearty Republican came along that way a short-sighted sportsman carryla

unity may be established against inflation and re-POLITICAL NOTES. One year from to-day the Nation will have kept its Shall the year 1878 be black on the calendar with repudiation or luminous with unsulfied honor? In the eyes of the silver agitator it is a crime to accumulate and lend money, but no crime to re-fuse to pay your debts.

The Democracy years to hold the President in a close embrace just long enough to pick his coat-tail pockets. Nobody will be surprised to hear of the Demo-

cratic desire to have the frand cry stilled with spoils, but everybody will be surprised if the President is so simple as to gratify the desire. That Canal Ring verdict comes just in time to furnish a new foundation for the Tilden "reform" platform for 1880. The movement is liable to get

under way at any moment now. Western candidates may as well begin to argue against the impor-tance of a candidate who can carry New-York, for that will be the Tilden lever. Great unction is displayed by the silver advocates on the alleged fact that nobody showed any interest

in the passage of the demonstration act of 1873. Iz is claimed that this proves its "surreptitiousness." A slight capacity for calmer judgment would show that the general indifference sprang from a unity of opinion in favor of the act. Silver was not cheap enough then to excite the love of the inflationists. We are informed with considerable asperity by

the Georgia newspapers that an injustice has been done Senator Gordon in charging him with independent proclivities. A demand is made to justify him, with the assurance from his closest friends that he is a thorough Democrat, being first, last and always for his party. There never was any doubt of this Mr. Gordon is a striking illustration of the impoten cy of reconciliation as a means for the reget of Democrats.

Senator Spencer gives alarming indications that he will vote with the silver inflationists. He was written to, recently, by hn Alabama friend, who asked him to represent the sentiments of his State by voting for unlimited silver. The Senator has given a correspondent of The Baltimore Sun a copy of his reply, which contains this ominous state ment: "I beg leave to say that your views and arguments respecting finance have my sympathy. I have, as perhaps you are aware, suffered denunciation and abase by the moneyed powers for having ention and abase by the moneyed powers for having en-tertained free notions respecting our money systems, and no one more than myself deprecates the present prestration of business enterprises and consequent hardship to the laboring classes throughout the country, all of which, as you suggest, has its origin with what is technically known as 'contraction.'" This is explicit enough to show that the Republi-can party is pretty certain to lose the vote of an-other of its political carpet-baggers when it needs it the most.

Senator Ben Hill has been making good use of the holiday recess by giving the Southern people a first-class lecture on finance. He has told them a great deal of plain truth, and told it like a man. Having been requested by a reporter of The Atlanta Constitution to give his views on finance, he re sponded in two columns of unvarnished truth. He announced at the outset that he would never vote in favor of any bill proposing to make 90 or 92 cents worth of silver a dollar. He could see in such a proposition nothing but a scheme to take 8 or 10 per cent of value out of the pockets of the people and put it into the pockets of silver owners. He little excitement of an intensely disagreeable had heard a good deal of clamor about "bloated bond-holders," but he thought it about time to warn the people of "bloated builion-holders." The only way to escape financial distress and uncerwarn the people of "bloated buillion-holders." The only way to escape financial distress and uncertainty is to resume specie payments. He was especially anxious lest the South be forced into even apparent hostility to the National credit. "Nothing." said he, "can more surely prevent the return of the Democratic party to power than such a position by the Southern wing of the party." Mr. Hill sees clearly enough that the natural inference from a solid Southern vote for incipient repudiation is that the South will be easily led into National repudiation, and he knows what that will cost his party.

# PERSONAL.

Mr. A. H. Stephens breakfasts at half-past in the morning, it is said; he never eats bufter, and a susceptly likes broiled chicken.

Mr. Dion Boucicault has just fitted up, says the New-York correspondent of The Cincinnali Guzette, new apartment, at an expense of \$13,000. The bathoom, all marble and precious stones, is described as a conder of luxury and magnificence.

Mr. Donald G. Mitchell advocates floors of lished wood all over a house, with rugs in the centre of the rooms. He likes a house finished with unpainted wood, and for walls he advises plaster on the ground that wood criting absorbs too much light, and paper hangings often interfere with other ornaments. He ex-pecially admires unique and unexpected arrangements of rooms and doors.

Divers Boston dames are very mad because a ware not invited to the Whittier dinner and Co onel Higginson deprecatingly writes to The Woman's Journal that he didn't know whether ladies were to be present or absent until he entered the room. But the clever Cotonel does not say that he would have staved away to avence the omission if he had known that ladies were uninvited.

General "Bob" Toombs, of Georgia, is described as the possessor of a figure that is a model of many strength and beauty, and of a head that Nature left augh-cast. Grizzled, unkempt locks are piled in disorder over and around his broad, high forehead, and the dark skin of his massive features is ploughed by deep lines When excited his eyes glow, his arms are thrown rapidly and forcibly about, and he speaks in a high, sharp voice

He is an earnest Freemason There is a story that Mr. Sothern, not long ago, happened to be carried off into a country town with another gentleman, by mistake of a train, and put up al the principal hotel. In the dining room he spied a large portrait of General McCleilan, marched his friend up before t, assured him that it was the best portrait of his (Soth ern's) father he had ever seen. The friend thanked him tearfully for having shown him this excellent likeness of "the old man," and, between them, they got the wniters wild at the supposition that this was really "Little Mac's" offspring.

Salvint says that twice in playing "Oros mane" he has stabbed himself in good earnest, so ab sorbed was he in his part. On one occasion the dagger penetrated to within half an inch of the heart. It neither instance did he know what he had done until the performance was over, but finished the scene with his stage robes dripping with blood. It is said that one ode stage roots drip his write death. It said the stage he never can remember a single passage from any one of his many characters—before toe footlights he is no longer Salvini, but the man he represents, and he not only remembers his own part, but that of every other character in the piece.

Mr. Gladstone has just been challenged to a trial of skill in feiling trees by a stout Derbyshire timber felier. Mr. Gladstone repired that he regarded the chal lenge as a great compliment; "but," be ce give in : I never had prefensions to excellence and if I had had them, by this time, from age and other causes, they would have been lost." The following letter was lately written by Mr. Gladstone to a Sheffield firm, which forwarded to him "one of their original American patent axes; the blade of polished steel and the handle of bickery": "Gentlemen: I am very glad you have added that useful article, the American axe, to the li-t of our home productions, and I thank you for favories me with a specimen which seems, as much trial as I have made, to possess all the merits of the original. I find it necessary to study efficiency in proportion and weight, and it is under this issue that I think the American axe comes out well, especially for soft or free-grained woods. The handle is, I think, excellent; but I always wish it were cut straight across at the cud, at a right angle to its direction or axis. I remain, continuous, your faithful servant, W. E. Gladstone. December 13, me with a specimen which seems, as much trial as I have

Here is a pathetic story which appears to be told in good faith, concerning Mr. William Black, the novelist. While staying at Obau, last Summer, he tell inclined for a swim one morning, and selecting the quietest nook he could find along the beach, he laid his clothes carefully under a rock, and proceeded to enjoy his sea bath. Presently, a young lady with one of his own novels in hand, cause walking along the beach, and absorbed and unconscious, sat herself down close by the unseen garments. Poor Mr. William Black did not know what to do. He made a noise with the water, bebbed up and down, and tried by every modest means in his power to indicate that he was in the vicinity, and not in full dress He was ashamed to stand up and short, and hardly ven tured, indeed, to show more than the top of his head. So absorbing, however, was his own story that he could not attract attention. He had never before wished that his liferary power was less, but at that moment his fondest hope was that he had written at least one dull chapter it his volume. That wish became an inspiration, an am bition, a desire tegot in agony, when presently there